lume II, no. 8 april, 1959

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

USING THE CALL

Last month every reader of this newsletter ceived a copy of the *Call to Christian ction in Society,* which has been submitted the synods, conferences, churches, and embers of our united fellowship for study d report prior to the meeting of the eneral Synod.

Already the Council offices have received any requests for additional copies of the *ll* and the Report Form. Many congre- ns are planning to give it careful study. veral synods are making a special request at such study be carried on before the rring synod meetings, so that pastors and legates may bring the benefits of such cal discussions to the synod—and these in rn make their contribution to the de- erations of the General Synod.

To assist groups in such study, the present ue of CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY offers o helps. On the inside pages is a Leader's uide with suggestions for planning two or ore sessions of study and discussion. These ay be used in men's or women's groups, cial action committees, special or all- urch meetings.

The other is Dr. James Mead's story of w Park Church one year ago studied the CSA's Statements for Study and Action d made its recommendations for con- deration at the General Council of Congre- tional Christian Churches. This "case story" suggests ways in which a local urch may deal with the Call this spring.

The Leader's Guide suggests that you mpare the social resolutions of the Gen- al Council (CC) and the General Synod E&R). If you plan to do this, be sure to der enough copies of *Social Resolutions* the General Council of the Congrega- nal Christian Churches, 1958 (15c) and *hristian Social Action at the General ynod,* 1956 (20c).

In any case, be sure to have on hand ough copies of the *Call* (up to ten copies ee, additional copies 3 cents each) and a eport Form (3 cents each), available from ther of our offices.

Groups desiring to dig more deeply into e problems of *United States Policy Toward hina* or *Critical Issues in the Middle East,* pecially in their study of the CCSA state- ents on China and Palestine Refugees, are rged to secure the study packets on one or th of these subjects, 50 cents each.

Copies of the March issue of CHRIS- IAN COMMUNITY, containing the Re- ort of the Council and the text of its state- ents on China, Palestine Refugees, and ublic Education, are still available at 10 ents, 12 for $1.

The Life of a Resolution at Park Church

By James C. Mead

Last year when Mrs. Mead and I took our daughters to Washington, D. C. we naturally included a visit to the Lincoln Memorial. I noticed with surprise that many visitors would first pause before the life-like image of the great President and then stop for a much longer time before the famous statements from Lincoln's pen, chiseled on the wall. It seemed that their expressions revealed that the full truth of these words challenged and concerned the people for the first time.

When carefully studied and constructed statements reach us from the Council for Social Action, I believe our local churches ought to provide the setting in which the full truth of our social issues and problems may challenge and personally concern our members.

In the case of the Boston Resolutions our time-table at Park Church was something like this: A copy of the Statements for Study and Action reached us in February. The Minister read these Statements and ordered nine copies for the Christian Service Committee. By the time of the March meeting these had arrived and a preliminary discussion was held as we read them together. A decision was made to make this our Study and Action project and to order sufficient copies. Before the April meeting a more detailed study was made by the committee members, who agreed to invite into their respective homes six or eight Congregational neighbors and friends to discuss these Statements. A letter from the committee was composed and sent to a hundred officials of the church, along with a copy of these Statements for Study and Action. The committee members and a few others agreed to present a brief resume of the Statements before as many parish groups as possible during April and May. Articles about the Statements were run in the weekly parish paper, and notices of the impending Congregational meeting appeared in the Sunday worship bulletins. Ten days before the general meeting the entire membership received a letter reminding them what the social issues were and inviting them to attend.

The most appealing attraction in regard to the Congregational meeting was the list of well-known community leaders who had agreed to be panelists. On the Race Statement an attorney (member of City Council and member of our Social Action Committee) was to speak. On the Education Statement the Assistant Superintendent of the Public School System in charge of curriculum was the speaker. The community leader who was the panelist on the Labor-Management

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INSTITUTES HELP LEADERS, STRESS WORLD AFFAIRS

Four regionally located Christian Social Action Institutes conducted by the Council for Christian Social Action will offer rich opportunities to secure training for leadership in social action this summer:

West Coast — White Memorial Retreat Center, Mill Valley, California, June 22-26.

Midwest—Lakeland College, Sheboygan, Wisconsin, July 13-17.

Central — Congregational Center, Lisle, New York, July 20-24.

Eastern—Congregational Conference Center, Framingham, Massachusetts, July 27-31.

Ministers, members of social action committees in churches, synods, and conferences, representatives of men's and women's organizations, and youth will consider the bearing of Christian faith upon our common life; seek deeper understanding of social, racial, economic, and political problems; and learn how better to deal with them. In this they will have the help of distinguished pastors, theologians, and teachers, as well as members of the Council staff.

A special feature of this summer's institutes is that—in addition to the

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Leader's Guide for

Call to Christian Action in Society

The Call to Christian Action in Society sets objectives for Christian social action which should occupy the United Church in the years ahead. It also embodies principles previously supported by the General Council of Congregational Christian Churches and the General Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

The Call was drafted by the Council for Christian Social Action in February, 1959, in response to suggestions from social action leaders throughout the country. Several national boards of the United Church of Christ are joining the CCSA in sponsoring the Call. It is now submitted to the churches for study and discussion. Recommendations for improvement from the churches will be reported to the Council for Christian Social Action and submitted to the General Synod of the United Church of Christ when it meets in Oberlin, Ohio, July 5-9, 1959.

When the Call has been adopted by the General Synod it will serve as a guide and stimulus to the whole church for Christian action in society.

HOLD TWO TO FOUR MEETINGS

It is hoped that each church will arrange for thorough discussion of the Call. The social action committee might plan to devote two to four meetings to it. Other groups such as the women's organizations, the Churchmen's Fellowship, youth groups, couples clubs, and adult classes might study it. Churches may return one Report Form expressing the convictions of the church as a whole; or they may ask each group within the church to report its conclusions.

PROVIDE AN INFORMAL SETTING

Free discussion will be encouraged if the meeting can be held in an informal setting rather than in the sanctuary. If possible, arrange for the members of the group to face each other around a large table or in a circle.

First Session

Open the session with worship. Suggestions are given on the other side of this page.

Read aloud the "Social Creed of the Churches" which was adopted by the Federal Council of Churches in 1908. The four churches which comprise the United Church of Christ today participated, with other denominations, in the adoption of this prophetic and influential statement. Ask which aspects of the "Social Creed" have been fulfilled in American life; and which goals are yet to be attained.

Read aloud the proposed "Call to Christian Action in Society" either in unison or have different persons read the four sections. Tell the group that the Call is designed to be a brief statement of social goals for the years ahead, and therefore cannot deal with a large number of specific issues. Ask whether it deals with the most important problems for Christians in our world today, or whether there are others which should be substituted for some of them.

Assign responsibility for special preparation on each of the four sections of the Call.

Suggest that the Call should incorporate the most relevant actions of the churches joining in the United Church of Christ and deal with the new problems facing us. Distribute copies of the social resolutions of the General Council of Congregational Christian Churches and of the General Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church. Ask members to study them and to be prepared to report at the next session on the similarities and differences of position and on any significant omissions in the Call.

Conclude with a summary and a benediction.

Subsequent Sessions

Open the meeting with worship, using some of the suggestions on the other side of this page.

Consider the Introduction and Section I. Compare the positions taken with previous actions of the General Council and General Synod.

Discuss each statement; submit recommendations for changes for those statements with which members disagree; vote on each statement or on Section I as a whole; and record the number of persons in agreement, in disagreement, and undecided.

Do the same for Sections II, III, and IV.

Discuss how your group will act on the policies set forth in the Call, after it has been amended and adopted by the General Synod.

Close the meeting with a benediction.

Send a report of the actions taken, before May 15, 1959 to the Council for Christian Social Action, 289 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

Suggestions for Services of Worship

CALL TO CHRISTIAN ACTION IN SOCIETY

SCRIPTURE: *Revelation* 3:14-22 (The Church in Laodicea)
Galatians 3:28, 29 (Race)
The Acts 17:24-28 (The Nations)
Mark 12:13-17; *Acts* 5:27-29 (Political Life)
Deuteronomy 24:14, 15; *Matthew* 20:1-16 (Culture)

HYMNS: The Church's One Foundation
O God of Earth and Altar
Once to Every Man and Nation
Jesus Shall Reign
The Voice of God is Calling
Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

COMMENT: What does the Spirit say to the churches? That is our first consideration as Christians and as church members. It is not what *we* would say to the churches, to the General Synod, or to the Church universal; it is what Christ says. We are a church when, first of all, we listen to God; when we listen to the teaching of Christ; when we listen to the Spirit speaking in the churches, and when we respond in faith and love. Only as we hear and heed the Spirit can the churches of today be THE CHURCH. We are bidden to "hear what the Spirit saith to the churches."

How can the Spirit speak to us through the churches? He can speak through the voices of church leaders, pastors, deacons, and elders. He can speak to us through the voice of our consciences when they are opened to the best judgment of other Christian consciences. He can speak to us through group discussion in which we seek truth from our own experience and from the experience of the other members of the group. He can speak to us as we ponder these problems in our hearts, as we pray about them, as we discuss them in our homes, as we live with them day by day. He can speak to us through the churches as hundreds of groups like ours in Congregational Christian and Evangelical and Reformed churches, synods, and conferences listen, discuss, share, and decide what we earnestly believe he is saying to the churches.

During these months before and during the General Synod we will discover the best judgments of many earnest Christian members; we will view these in the light of what we know of Christ and God in the Bible; and we will put them into words for our day and generation. This is not an effort to poll the opinions of our church members; it is an endeavor to find the highest consensus of Christian judgment on current social issues. It is an earnest attempt to discover the will of God for our society. "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith to the churches."

PRAYERS:

The Lord's Prayer.

O God, who hast spoken to us by thy Spirit moving in the hearts of prophets and saints; grant us so to hear their scriptures, read, study, and meditate upon them, that we may be led into ever fuller truth, and be guided in the way of life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God, the source of all good gifts, we thank thee for the rich heritage which is ours in thy holy catholic Church. Thou hast done much for us already and we believe that thou hast also much to give and teach us in our own time. Grant that thy Church may never settle down to mere contentment with the tradition of the past. Grant that it may be alive to all new movements of thy Spirit in the hearts and minds of men. May it stand always for the removal of injustice and the vindication of righteousness and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ came to cast fire upon the earth; grant that by the prayers of thy faithful people a fire of burning zeal may be kindled and pass from heart to heart, that the light of thy Church may shine forth bright and clear; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BENEDICTION:

May the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, rest upon us and upon all our work and worship done in his name. May he give us light to guide us, courage to support us, and love to unite us, now and forevermore. Amen.

Social Creed of The Churches

This prophetic statement was adopted by the Federal Council of Churches on December 4, 1908. The Federal Council was a predecessor of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A.

THE FEDERAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AMERICA STANDS:

For equal rights and complete justice for all men in all stations of life.

For the abolition of child-labor.

For such regulation of the conditions of toil for women as shall safeguard the physical and moral health of the community.

For the suppression of the "sweating system."

For the gradual and reasonable reduction of the hours of labor to the lowest practicable point, and for that degree of leisure for all which is the condition of the highest human life.

For a release from employment one day in seven.

For the right of all men to the opportunity for self-maintenance, a right ever to be wisely and strongly safeguarded against encroachments of every kind.

For the right of workers to some protection against the hardships often resulting from the swift crises of industrial change.

For a living wage as a minimum in every industry, and for the highest wage that each industry can afford.

For the protection of the worker from dangerous machinery, occupational disease, injuries, and mortality.

For suitable provision for the old age of the workers and for those incapacitated by injury.

For the principle of conciliation and arbitration in industrial dissensions.

For the abatement of poverty.

For the most equitable division of the products of industry that can ultimately be devised.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

It is refreshing to observe the increasing concern of our churches for issues which are before state legislatures in their current sessions.

In Kansas, for example, two problems are calling for attention: legislation to advance the cause of racial justice, and programs to aid the aging. Congregational Christian social action committees are urging increased budget for the State's Anti-discrimination Commission, and also a more enforceable law with which the Commission might be able to work. At present the Commission is doing almost nothing to secure improved conditions for those who present grievances. There is some resistance to the proposed legislation, springing particularly from an increased wave of "race hate" propaganda in the State. On the other hand, church leaders point out that an emphasis on minority rights is essential to meet the challenge of world conditions.

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In Connecticut the Congregational Christian State Conference's Committee on Christian Social Action on February 5 gave testimony before the Judiciary Committee, which was then considering several civil rights bills. Particular attention was given to a measure affecting discrimination in private housing. In its testimony, the Committee referred to action taken last October: "The Connecticut Conference also calls upon the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut to amend the Public Accommodations Act so as to defend the rights of all people, regardless of their color, creed, or national origin, who seek private housing in the open market."

Press releases early in February indicated that the Assembly also expected to give good support to this church-backed legislation. If the law is passed, Connecticut will be the first state in the union to have such legislation.

* * * *

Migratory labor is receiving much attention in the present session of the Oregon State Legislature. This is due in a large measure to a comprehensive study of the problems of migrants undertaken by a Legislative Interim Committee which has spent two years in careful research. Hearings were held in many places, including every important migrant center in Oregon. Government commissions interviewed 4,273 farm operators and more than 3,000 migrant workers; 119 camps and 191 fields were inspected. The Director of Research for the Committee was Dr. Donald J. Balmer, professor at Lewis and Clark University, and a member of the Evangelical and Reformed Church at Meridian, Oregon. The published report included the committee's recommendations and several proposed bills for consideration by the Legislature.

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At a meeting led by moderators of churches in the San Diego (California) Association, attended by 60 persons from 19 churches, 40 persons declared that two projects of major concern are F.E.P. legislation and efforts to achieve integrated housing. Two other urgent subjects were also mentioned: legislation to improve the status of farm laborers, migrants; and capital punishment. Several of these subjects will be attracting the attention of many California churches. They are on the calendar of the California Legislature in its present session.

Institutes Help Leaders, Stress World Affairs

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 2)

treatment of race relations, social welfare, and economic life—special attention will be given to training social action leaders for participation in the Nation-wide Program for Peace to be conducted in cooperation with the National Council of Churches during the period July, 1959 - June, 1960. Each evening will be given over to one of the topics suggested in the National Council Study Guide; and time will be set aside each afternoon for individual study of the guide.

Each institute opens on Monday and closes with lunch on Friday. Twenty-five dollars covers cost of registration, four nights' lodging, and twelve meals.

For information, registration blanks, and programs, Congregational Christians should write to Miss Fern Babcock, 289 Fourth Ave., New York 10, N. Y.; members of Evangelical and Reformed churches should write to Dr. Huber F. Klemme, 2969 West 25th St., Cleveland 13, Ohio.

In addition to the above, the Race Relations Department of the American Missionary Association will hold its annual Race Relations Institute at Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee, from June 29 to July 11. Information may be secured from Dr. Herman Long at Nashville, the Reverend Galen Weaver in New York, or the Reverend Chester Marcus in Cleveland.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

APRIL, 1959

News and Program Service of the Council for Christian Social Action of the United Church of Christ
Ray Gibbons, Director
Huber F. Klemme, Associate Director and Editor

Sent free to pastors and social action committee chairmen. Group subscription, 10 or more to one address, 50 cents each. Individual subscriptions, $2 per year with SOCIAL ACTION upon request.

General communications and orders from Evangelical and Reformed churches should be addressed to the Editor, Council for Christian Social Action, 2969 W. 25th St., Cleveland 13, Ohio.

Congregational Christians should order from Council for Christian Social Action, 289 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

The Council for Christian Social Action unites the work of the Council for Social Action of the Congregational Christian **Churches and the Commission on Christian** Social Action of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

The Life of a Resolution

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 3)

Statement was the Executive Secretary of the Toledo Labor-Management Citizens Committee. On the Foreign Policy Statement a well-known business man, a State Representative who had been on Government missions abroad relative to foreign trade, was the leader. On the Freedom, Security and Atomic Weapons Statement we secured the leadership of a science professor at the University of Toledo.

After one and one-half hours of lively discussion the Chairman urged all to mark the yellow report sheets so they could be mailed in. He also gave each one present another copy to take to some Congregational friend who did not have the insight to attend the meeting! Others had sent in their reports before this meeting and a number did afterwards.

The follow-up to our Study and Action on the Statements was also very helpful. A member of our Christian Service Committee happened to be a delegate to the Boston General Council who returned with an enthusiastic report as to the final discussions and wording of the Resolutions. He urged our committee to order copies of the Boston Resolutions for Fall study and discussion, which was done.

I do not believe there is anything unusual about our treatment of the Resolutions, unless it would be that ours is quite a conservative church. We had to have a committee appointed to investigate the Council of Social Action back in 1952 and 1953 before we could establish a Social Action Committee. Ray Gibbons appeared as one of the witnesses or "exhibits" in this investigation. We have urged the honest facing of social problems and issues and have expected vastly differing opinions and conclusions. Our church program has many emphases, Social Action being one of the minor ones although it ought to receive more attention. Many of our members have concluded that they hear and worry about many of these social issues, so they might as well seek the best Christian solutions possible through study and action.

Therefore, it would seem to me that the local church provides the ideal setting for the facing of such social issues and statements and should challenge and concern our members as Lincoln's words in the Memorial did the visitors whom we saw.

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The Reverend James C. Mead is pastor of Park Congregational Church, Toledo, Ohio.

SOCIAL ACTION CALENDAR

April 7-9—United Church of Christ Washington Seminar.

June 22-26 — West Coast Christian Social Action Institute, White Memorial Retreat Center, Mill Valley, Calif.

June 23 - August 1—CCSA Europe-Middle East Seminar.

June 28 - July 23—Summer School of Alcohol Studies, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.

June 29 - July 11—Race Relations Institute, Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee.

July 1-5—General Synod, Evangelical and Reformed Church, Oberlin, Ohio.

July 5-9—General Synod, United Church of Christ, Oberlin, Ohio.

July 9-11 — Council for Christian Social Action, Oberlin, Ohio.

July 13-17—Midwest Christian Social Action Institute, Lakeland College, Sheboygan, Wis.

July 20-24—Central Christian Social Action Institute, Congregational Center, Lisle, N. Y.

July 27-31—Eastern Christian Social Action Institute, Congregational Center, Framingham, Mass.

August 6-25—Mexican Study Seminar.

September 6—Labor Sunday.

October 20-22—United Nations — World Order Seminar, New York.

SEE THE WORLD

You don't want to be one of those unfortunate Evangelical and Reformed or Congregational Christian people who **might** have seen something of the world — some of the key people in church and state in other countries — some of the danger spots — some of the signs of hope — but who missed their chance because they did not sign up with one of the Council for Christian Social Action Travel Seminars!

It's expensive? Well, the study tour to Europe and the Middle East costs $1645 — and is worth every bit of it. But for $295, plus your own fare by bus, rail, plane, or car to Mexico City and home again, you can visit one of the most instructive spots in the world. Here a people is struggling with great social and economic problems. Here is a near neighbor, with its own distinctive history. Here the Indian, the colonial, and modern cultures blend. Here is a religious situation different from that prevailing in most of Western Europe, Asia, or North America. You not only see Mexico's cosmopolitan capital, but have nine days in six states, stopping in picturesque hotels and **posadas**, traveling in a comfortable modern bus, enjoying unforgettable experiences with a congenial group of folk interested in the church, the world, and their fellow-men.

For information and application blanks write to the Reverend F. Nelsen Schlegel, Mexican Study Tour, 2969 West 25th St., Cleveland 13, Ohio.